



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

President's Park  
White House Visitor Center  
1450 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20230

<http://www.nps.gov/whho>

Mailing Address:  
1100 Ohio Drive, SW  
Washington, DC 20242

202 208-1631 Phone  
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## President's Park Education Programs

The ranger staff at President's Park is getting ready for another year of fun and engaging education programs at the park. Our programs focus on building citizen engagement by providing students with the opportunity to learn about democracy in action through studying the history of the White House, the presidency, and the natural and cultural spaces of President's Park. Students will develop skills in critical thinking, information synthesis, and data analysis. They will also have the opportunity to practice research skills and explore new technology, including the use of GPS units and real-time online collaboration.

For this school year, we will be offering a variety of educational programs on topics that range from the Underground Railroad to the War of 1812 to the First Amendment. For detailed information on these and other programs that are being offered, see the [President's Park Education Programs](#) section below. All of the educational programs being offered meet the National Standards of Learning.

We believe that these programs will provide your students with a meaningful experience that will not only enhance their understanding of President's Park and the White House, but will also promote a sense of stewardship toward the unique cultural and natural resources found here and in all our National Parks.

President's Park is just one of 15 urban parks operated by the National Park Service in the Washington, DC metropolitan area that offers educational opportunities to students of all ages. President's Park is comprised of 82 acres and includes Lafayette Park, the Ellipse, Sherman Park, and the First Division Monument, all of which surround the White House.

If you have any questions about our current programs, suggestions for future ones, or would like to talk about the possibility of developing a custom program, please call Kathy Langley at 202-208-1636 or email [presidentsparkeducation@nps.gov](mailto:presidentsparkeducation@nps.gov). When leaving a message, please remember to give your name, number, and a convenient time for us to call. Include the program name you are interested in, as well as possible dates and the number of students who will attend each program.

We look forward to seeing you in the park!

## Applying for & Scheduling Education Programs

To register for an education program at President's Park, please complete the registration form found on the park website. You may either fax the completed form to 202-208-1643 or mail this form back to the park. Programs may also be scheduled by calling 202-208-1636.

If returning the form by mail, please use the following address, allowing at least **3 weeks** for the form to reach the park:

President's Park Education Programs  
National Capital Region  
1100 Ohio Drive, SW Room 344  
Washington, DC 20242

Please keep the following information in mind when scheduling a program:

1. You will need to select one preferred date and time for the program, as well as a backup date and time. **Allow 1½ to 4 hours for education programs.**
2. Maximum 2 classes not to exceed 60 students unless approved in writing or verbally by the Education Coordinator, President's Park.
3. Most education programs have pre-activities are designed to give the students a head-start on the lessons that will be presented during their site visit. In most cases, these materials will be e-mailed to you when you receive a letter confirming your registration. In some cases, a ranger will come to local schools to work with the teachers on the pre-visit activities. Some materials can be mailed to you if you are unable to retrieve them from the park website or receive them by email.
4. The park offers free busing for some schools in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. Please indicate on your registration form if you are interested in receiving more information about this opportunity. Note that the availability of busing is subject to change.
5. Please indicate any special accommodations needed on the registration form.

## President's Park Education Programs

Grades K– 3

### ***Witness to History***

Using the children's book *If the Walls Could Talk*, students will be introduced to some of our former Presidents and First Families. They will also learn about the many functions that the White House serves.

Grades 4– 8

### ***The Redcoats Are Coming Again! – The War of 1812***

Students will use Microsoft Photostory 3 software to produce a video that will include primary documents, music, cartoons, maps and other sources to tell the story of the War of 1812 based on where they live in the District of Columbia, Maryland, or Virginia. Students will also reenact the signing of the Treaty of Ghent at the Octagon House and learn what happened to the Madison's once they moved out of the White House after it was burned by the British.

### ***President's Park – A Sense of Place*** (Suggested pre-visit activity)

The complex relationship we have with special places is explored in this program. Students will use maps and photographs to understand and interpret the spatial and functional relationship between the primary government buildings in Washington DC, the historical significance of the statues and memorials in President's Park, and the significance of the White House as an international symbol of freedom and democracy.

### ***History through Art***

Local artist Peter Waddell will introduce basic drawing techniques to students as they draw different national treasures from Abraham Lincoln's hats to Dolley Madison's ice cream bowl and the White House using different geometric shapes and shading techniques. As the students learn how to draw these artifacts, they will also be learning about the importance of protecting these national treasures for future generations. Following this activity, students will be given a walking tour of President's Park where they will be able to find additional national treasures within the park.

### ***Slavery and the Underground Railroad Traveling Trunk, With a Focus on the Nation's Capital and Surrounding Areas***

Through the use of documents, lesson plans, books, posters, period clothing and artifact reproductions, you will help students learn about slavery and the Underground Railroad in the greater Washington, DC area. The trunk is used only in DC and the surrounding metropolitan area.

### ***If Statues Could Talk***

Students conduct an in-depth examination of the statues in Lafayette Park from a multi-disciplinary point of view and learn about conservation issues and processes. Students will conduct an actual assessment of the condition of monuments in the park.

Grades 5– 8

***Stepping into History at President's Park***

During a field trip to President's Park, students use GPS units and historical images to “travel through time.” They will stand where historical events have taken place, analyze and interpret the meaning of those events, and consider their role in establishing the White House as a national symbol of American ideals.

Grades 6– 12

***America's Forgotten War – The War of 1812 & The Treaty of Ghent***

This program pairs American students with those from Belgium, the United Kingdom, and Canada to create opportunities for exciting international exchange and learning. Students will produce videos using Microsoft Photostory 3 and primary documents, music, cartoons, maps, and other sources to tell the story of the War of 1812 as it relates to where they live. Participating schools will then use Skype or a similar program to screen the videos, followed by an open classroom discussion about the War of 1812 and the impacts of the Treaty of Ghent with their partner school abroad.

***Lafayette Park: First Amendment Rights on the President's Doorstep***

This online lesson is part of the [Teaching with Historic Places](#) series produced by the National Park Service. Using National Register of Historic Places documentation, this program builds lesson plans that encourage students to think critically about the historic spaces around them.

Located within President's Park, Lafayette Park has long been the site of demonstrations, protests, and rallies as citizens exercise their First Amendment right to petition the government. This lesson plan traces the historical roots of the National Woman's Party, Lafayette Park itself, and the suffragette movement in the United States and explores the struggle for voting rights for women based around a discussion of the role and place of dissent within democracy.

Teaching with Historic Places program:

<http://www.nps.gov/history/nr/twhp/>

*Lafayette Park: First Amendment Rights on the President's Doorstep* lesson plan:

[http://www.nps.gov/history/nr/twhp/wwwlps/lessons/139LafayettePark/139Lafayette\\_Park.htm](http://www.nps.gov/history/nr/twhp/wwwlps/lessons/139LafayettePark/139Lafayette_Park.htm)

PLEASE NOTE: Education programs do not include a tour of the White House. Tours of the White House must be arranged separately through a Member of Congress or embassy.